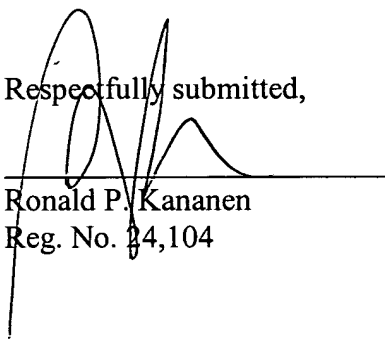


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application. No new matter has been added. In particular, the features amended to the specification by the foregoing Preliminary Amendment have been made in order to improve the idiomatic English and the overall readability of the specification. If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 12, 2003

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